

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 TAKIS STATHOULIS

11 Plaintiff(s),

12 v.

13 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,
14 et al.

15 Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:22-cv-04256-SB-JPR

**STANDING ORDER FOR
CIVIL CASES ASSIGNED
TO JUDGE STANLEY
BLUMENFELD, JR.**

[updated 1-10-22]

16
17
18 **READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY BECAUSE IT CONTROLS THIS CASE**
19 **AND DIFFERS IN PART FROM THE LOCAL RULES. FAILURE TO**
20 **COMPLY MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS.**

21 Counsel for the plaintiff must immediately serve this Order on all parties,
22 including any new parties to the action. If this case was removed from state court,
23 the defendant that removed the case must serve this Order on all other parties. A
24 hyperlinked table of contents appears below.

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. <u>Counsel</u>	9. <u>Ex Parte Applications</u>
2. <u>Communications with Chambers</u>	10. <u>Continuances</u>
3. <u>Pleadings</u>	11. <u>Class Actions</u>
4. <u>Discovery</u>	12. <u>ERISA Cases (Benefit Claims)</u>
5. <u>Filing Requirements</u>	13. <u>Bankruptcy Appeals</u>
6. <u>General Motion Requirements</u>	14. <u>Consent to Magistrate Judge</u>
7. <u>Specific Motion Requirements</u>	15. <u>Sanctions for Failing to Comply</u>
8. <u>Hearings</u>	

1. COUNSEL.

- a. **Civility.** All counsel must immediately review and comply with the Civility and Professionalism Guidelines on the Court's website under Attorney Information. Failure to do so may result in sanctions.
- b. **Presence of Lead Counsel.** Only one attorney for a party may be designated as lead trial counsel. Lead trial counsel must attend all proceedings set by this Court and be prepared to address and resolve all matters within the scope of the proceeding. For proceedings not set by the Court, lead counsel are encouraged to permit junior lawyers to fully participate in court proceedings, including to argue motions and to examine witnesses at trial. The Court is more likely to hear oral argument if any party files a notice at least 7 days before a scheduled hearing stating that a junior lawyer with no more than five years of experience will conduct the argument. Only one counsel may be designated to argue motions absent Court approval.
- c. **Self-Represented Parties (a.k.a. "Pro Per" Litigants).** Parties

1 appearing in propria persona (pro per litigants) are required to comply
 2 with all local rules, including Local Rule 16 (“Pretrial Conferences;
 3 Scheduling; Management”). In this Order, the term “counsel” includes
 4 pro per litigants. Only individuals may represent themselves. A
 5 corporation or other entity must be represented by counsel; and if counsel
 6 seeks to withdraw, counsel must advise the entity of the dire
 7 consequences of failing to obtain substitute counsel before seeking
 8 withdrawal—i.e., a plaintiff entity’s case will be dismissed or a defendant
 9 entity will default. See Local Rule 83-2.3.4.

10 **d. Duty to Notify of Settlement.** Counsel must advise the Court
 11 immediately if the case or any pending matter has been resolved. Failure
 12 to provide timely notice of settlement may result in sanctions.

13 **e. “Notice of Unavailability.”** While the Court expects that counsel will
 14 conduct themselves professionally and will not deliberately schedule any
 15 proceeding when counsel are unavailable, a “Notice of Unavailability”
 16 has no legal effect and should not be filed.

17 **2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAMBERS.**

18 Counsel shall not initiate contact with the Court or its Chambers staff by
 19 telephone or by any other improper ex parte means. Counsel may contact the
 20 courtroom deputy clerk (CRD) with appropriate inquiries. Contacting the CRD to
 21 inquire about the status of a ruling or to continue a proceeding or take it off
 22 calendar is not appropriate. The preferred method of communication with the CRD
 23 is by email. ***Counsel must copy all parties on any such email.*** To facilitate
 24 communication with the CRD, counsel should list their email addresses along
 25 with their telephone numbers on all papers.

26 **3. PLEADINGS.**

27 **a. Service of the Complaint.** The plaintiff(s) shall promptly serve the
 28 complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file the proofs of

1 service pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l). Any defendant, including any
2 “Doe” or fictitiously named defendant, not served within 90 days after
3 the case is filed shall be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

4 **b. Removed Actions.** Any answer filed in state court must be refiled in this
5 Court as a supplement to the Notice of Removal. Any pending motion in
6 state court before the case was removed must be re-noticed in accordance
7 with Local Rule 7. If a removed action contains a “form pleading” (i.e., a
8 check-the-box pleading), the party (or parties) that filed the form
9 pleading must file with this Court within 30 days of the filing of the
10 notice of removal a pleading that complies with the federal rules. See
11 Fed. R. Civ. P. 7, 7.1, 8, 9, 10, and 11. An amended complaint filed
12 within 30 days after removal to replace a form complaint pursuant to this
13 instruction shall be deemed an amended complaint with “the court’s
14 leave” pursuant to Rule 15(a)(2).

15 **c. Status of Fictitiously Named Defendants.**

- 16 i. Plaintiff must identify and serve any fictitiously named
17 defendant(s) before the date of the mandatory scheduling
18 conference (MSC) held pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b).
- 19 ii. All Doe defendants remaining 60 days after the MSC (or
20 on the date set forth in the scheduling order, if applicable) are
21 dismissed by operation of this Order without further notice *unless*
22 plaintiff requests and justifies the need for additional time in the
23 joint report for the MSC and the Court grants an extension.
- 24 iii. Before moving to substitute a defendant for a Doe defendant,
25 plaintiff must seek the consent of counsel for all defendants,
26 including counsel for a represented Doe defendant. If denied
27 consent, plaintiff must file a regularly noticed motion. In diversity
28 cases, plaintiff’s motion must address whether the addition of the

1 newly named party destroys diversity jurisdiction.

2 *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c), (e).

3 **4. DISCOVERY.**

4 **a. Magistrate Judge Referral.** All discovery matters are referred to the
5 assigned magistrate judge. All discovery documents must include the
6 words “DISCOVERY MATTER” in the caption to ensure proper routing.
7 Do not deliver Chambers copies of these documents to Judge
8 Blumenfeld. The decision of the Magistrate Judge shall be final, subject
9 to limited review requiring a showing that the decision is clearly
10 erroneous or contrary to law. Any party may file and serve a motion for
11 review within 14 days of either (i) service of a written ruling or (ii) an
12 oral ruling that expressly will not be followed by a written ruling. The
13 motion must specify which portions of the ruling are clearly erroneous or
14 contrary to law supported by points and authorities. Counsel shall deliver
15 a conformed copy of the moving papers and responses to the Magistrate
16 Judge’s clerk at the time of filing.

17 **b. Discovery Protective Orders.** Proposed protective orders for discovery
18 must be submitted to the assigned Magistrate Judge. Such orders should
19 not purport to allow, without further order of Judge Blumenfeld, the
20 filing under seal of pleadings or documents filed in connection with a
21 dispositive motion, a class certification motion, or trial before Judge
22 Blumenfeld. The existence of a protective order does not alone justify
23 the filing of pleadings or other documents under seal, in whole or in part.

24 **5. FILING REQUIREMENTS.**

25 **a. Text Searchability.** All documents—including pleadings, motions, and
26 exhibits—submitted to the Court must be text searchable (i.e., “OCR’d”).

27 **b. Documents with Declarations, Exhibits, and Other Attachments.**

28 Except for filings in support of motions for summary judgment (*see* MSJ

1 Standing Order), if a filed or lodged document has declarations, exhibits,
2 or other attachments, each attachment must be filed as a separately
3 docketed attachment to the main docket entry with a description of the
4 attachment (e.g., Dkt. 29-1 Smith Declaration, 29-2 Ex. 1 - License
5 Agreement, 29-3 Request for Judicial Notice). The Court may strike or
6 decline to consider motions, stipulations, or other documents with
7 attachments that are not filed in accordance with this Order.

8 **c. Proposed Orders.** Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the
9 determination of any matter shall serve and lodge a proposed order
10 setting forth the relief or action sought and a brief statement of the
11 rationale for the decision with appropriate citations.

12 i. Templates. Use the “Proposed Order” or the “CMO Continuance
13 Order” template—whichever is applicable—located on the Court’s
14 website under “Orders & Additional Documents” at the bottom of
15 the webpage. Failure to do so may result in the striking of the
16 request. Proposed orders should not contain: (1) attorney names,
17 addresses, etc. on the caption page; (2) a footer with the document
18 name or other information; or (3) a watermark or designation of
19 the firm name. Proposed orders should be formatted in the same
20 fashion as motions. *See infra* paragraph 6(c).

21 ii. Email. The Court enforces strict compliance of Local Rule 5-
22 4.4.2, which instructs: “After a document requiring a judge’s
23 signature has been lodged in accordance with L.R. 5-4.4.1. . . , a
24 Microsoft Word copy of the proposed document, along with a PDF
25 copy of the electronically filed main document, shall be e-mailed
26 to the assigned judge’s generic chambers e-mail address using the
27 CM/ECF System.” The Court will not consider a stipulation, ex
28 parte application, or other request for relief until a compliant

1 proposed order is received by email. Failure to timely comply will
2 result in the Court striking the filing.

3 **d. Chambers Copies.** Chambers Copies (paper copies that are sent to
4 Chambers upon electronic filing of the document) are required for the
5 following documents only: (1) initial pleadings (notices of removal
6 and related documents, complaints, counterclaims, cross claims, and
7 answers); (2) Joint Rule 26(f) Reports; (3) motion papers (motions,
8 oppositions, replies, and related documents), including motions in
9 limine; (4) ex parte applications for temporary restraining orders;
10 and (5) pretrial documents (memoranda of fact and law, witness
11 and exhibit lists, pretrial conference statement, jury instructions,
12 verdict forms, etc.). Chambers Copies must comply with the rules below.

- 13 i. Timeliness and location. Deliver Chambers Copies promptly to
14 Judge Blumenfeld's mailbox outside the Clerk's Office on the 4th
15 Floor of the First Street Courthouse. Applicable documents will not
16 be considered until Chambers Copies are submitted. Delay in
17 submitting such copies will delay consideration of the submission.
- 18 ii. Exhibits. Separate all exhibits by a tab divider on the right or
19 bottom of the document. If the evidence exceeds 50 pages, the
20 Chambers Copy must: (1) include a table of contents; and (2) be in
21 a tabbed binder with each exhibit separated by a tab divider on the
22 right or the bottom. All documents in the binder must be three-
23 hole punched. If the evidence exceeds 200 pages, the table of
24 contents and evidence must be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder.
25 Binders should be no larger than 4 inches. Binders must have both
26 a cover sheet and a spine label that includes the case name, case
27 both number, and a description of the contents.
- 28

1 **6. GENERAL MOTION REQUIREMENTS.**

2 **a. “Meet and Confer” Requirement.** Local Rule 7-3 requires counsel to
 3 conduct a prefiling conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance
 4 of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution.”

5 i. Scope. This requirement applies in all cases, including those with
 6 pro per litigants, and extends to all issues. If the parties are unable
 7 to fully resolve the dispute, they shall attempt to narrow the scope
 8 of the contested issue(s). Parties must meet and confer either by
 9 videoconference, or in person. Email correspondence is insufficient;
 10 and motions not supported by a statement that counsel met by
 11 videoconference, or in person will be summarily denied.

12 ii. Compliance. The moving party *must* include in the signed notice
 13 of motion a truthful representation of full compliance with Local
 14 Rule 7-3, *stating that the parties “thoroughly discussed the*
 15 *substance and potential resolution of the filed motion [by*
 16 *videoconference or in person].”*

17 iii. Sanctions. If an opposing party refuses to participate in good faith,
 18 the moving party shall explain the refusal in detail. Failure by any
 19 party to comply in good faith with the “meet and confer”
 20 requirement shall result in an order to show cause re: sanctions—
 21 including, as appropriate, striking or denying the motion, deeming
 22 the motion unopposed, and/or awarding monetary sanctions.

23 **b. Time for Filing and Hearing Motions.** This Court hears civil motions
 24 on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. If Friday is a court holiday, select another Friday.
 25 The Court often closes hearing dates at least four weeks in advance
 26 depending on the volume of motions scheduled. Closed motion dates
 27 are noted on the Court's website. If a motion is filed with a motion
 28 hearing date that is unavailable, the Court will strike the filing

1 or issue a minute order continuing the date. *A party that waits too*
2 *long and files a motion to be heard on a date that turns out to be*
3 *unavailable risks having the motion stricken and not heard.* Opposition
4 papers due on a Friday holiday may be filed the following Monday and
5 the reply papers may be filed on the next Monday. The parties may
6 stipulate to a different briefing schedule, so long as the schedule provides
7 at least two weeks between the filing of the reply and allows for a hearing
8 within the motion cutoff. If the parties resolve the issue(s), or if a party
9 withdraws or does not oppose a motion, the Court must be notified
10 immediately to avoid unnecessary judicial work. Failure to oppose a
11 motion will likely result in the motion being granted after the
12 opposition would have been due.

13 **c. Length and Format of Motion Papers.** Unless expressly stated
14 otherwise, memoranda of points and authorities in support of or in
15 opposition to motions must not exceed 25 pages. Replies must not
16 exceed 15 pages. Only in rare instances will the Court find good cause to
17 grant an application to extend these page limitations. Any memorandum
18 that exceeds the page limit may be stricken.
19 Typeface and spacing shall comply with Local Rule 11-3.1.1, except that
20 the parties are required to use only 14-point Times New Roman font.
21 Footnotes shall be in the same font and the same size as the body of the
22 memorandum.

23 **d. Footnotes.** A party is limited to the use of one footnote for every three
24 pages (rounded down) in any brief or other filing. For example, a 25-
25 page memorandum is limited to eight (8) footnotes, and a 15-page
26 memorandum is limited to five (5) footnotes. Use 12-point spacing
27 between footnotes. Citations that support a statement in the main text
28 must be included in the main text, not in footnotes. A filing that violates

1 this order may be stricken and not heard.

2 **e. Citations to Authority.** The parties should comply with Bluebook
3 formatting and the citation requirements below. *Any argument or*
4 *statement of law not supported by appropriate legal citation may be*
5 *deemed waived to the extent allowed by law.*

6 i. Pin Cites. Case citations must identify both the case cited *and* the

7 ii. String Cites. Parties should not use string cites without a good
8 reason. When using string cites, a party should include a
9 parenthetical explanation for each cited case.

10 iii. Legal Databases. When citing to legal databases (which is not
11 encouraged), cite to Westlaw whenever possible.

12 iv. U.S. Statutes. Statutory references should identify with specificity
13 the sections and subsections referenced. Citations should be to the
14 relevant official statutory code (e.g., the U.S. Code) and should not
15 merely reference the popular name of an act.

16 v. Treatises, Manuals, and the Like. Citations to treatises, manuals,
17 and other materials should include the volume, section, and
18 relevant pages. Attach copies if these materials are not accessible
19 on Westlaw, especially for historical materials (e.g., older
20 legislative history).

21 **7. SPECIFIC MOTION REQUIREMENTS.**

22 **a. Motions Pursuant to Rule 12.** Most motions to dismiss or strike,
23 especially motions raising alleged defects in a complaint, answer, or
24 counterclaim that could be corrected by amendment, can be avoided if
25 the parties confer in good faith as required by Local Rule 7-3. In general,
26 the Court will provide leave to amend upon granting a motion to dismiss
27 unless it is clear the complaint is not correctible. *See Chang v. Chen*, 80
28 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996); *see also Rosenberg Bros. & Co. v.*

1 *Arnold*, 283 F.2d 406, 406 (9th Cir. 1960) (requiring “extreme liberality”
 2 in favor of amendments). If the Ninth Circuit’s long-standing “extreme
 3 liberality” standard applies to a meritoriously filed motion, the Court may
 4 summarily grant the motion with leave to amend. A good-faith “meet
 5 and confer” may avoid this costly and inefficient process. If the Court
 6 grants a motion to dismiss with leave to amend, the plaintiff must file an
 7 amended complaint within the time period specified by the Court.
 8 Failure to timely file an amended complaint will result in dismissal of the
 9 action or the relevant claim(s) with prejudice.

10 **b. Motions to Amend Pleadings.** A motion to amend the pleadings must
 11 state: (a) the effect of the amendment and (b) the page, line numbers, and
 12 wording of any proposed change or addition of material. A “redlined”
 13 version of the proposed amended pleading must be delivered to
 14 Chambers (in paper form) and to Chambers email (in electronic form
 15 using Word), indicating all additions and deletions to the prior version of
 16 the pleading. This “redlined” version also must be delivered to opposing
 17 counsel at least two hours in advance of the Local Rule 7-3 conference;
 18 and if the plaintiff later changes the delivered version, counsel will be
 19 required to meet again about the revised pleading. In addition to the
 20 requirements of the Local Rules, all amended pleadings must be serially
 21 numbered to differentiate each amendment (i.e., “First Amended
 22 Complaint,” “Second Amended Complaint”).

23 **c. Motions for Summary Judgment.** Please refer to Judge Blumenfeld’s
 24 Standing Order re Motions for Summary Judgment found at
 25 <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-stanley-blumenfeld-jr>.

26 **d. PLRA Exhaustion Motion.** The issue of exhaustion under the Prison
 27 Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) must be raised at the beginning of the
 28 litigation. *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162, 1170 (9th Cir. 2014). A party

1 seeking to obtain a judicial determination of any material fact dispute
2 precluding summary judgment on the exhaustion issue must file before
3 this Court a request for a hearing *within 14 days of the filing of the order*
4 *denying summary judgment*. The failure to file a timely request may be
5 construed as a waiver of the exhaustion issue.

6 **8. HEARINGS.**

- 7 **a. Remote Appearances.** Remote appearances are not permitted absent
8 good cause shown in a declaration concurrently filed with the moving
9 papers or the opposition.
- 10 **b. Submission without Argument.** The Court may take a motion off
11 calendar if it concludes the decision will not benefit from oral
12 argument.
- 13 **c. Time.** If oral argument is permitted, the parties will have a total of 20
14 minutes, divided equally between the sides, unless the Court states
15 otherwise. If the Court believes that the matter warrants less or more
16 time, it will advise counsel at the hearing.
- 17 **d. Tentatives.** The Court often issues tentative rulings before hearings.
18 If so, they are typically available (i) on the Court's website on the
19 afternoon before the hearing or (ii) in the courtroom 30 minutes
20 before the hearing.
- 21 **e. Oral Argument.** The Court expects the parties to clearly articulate their
22 respective positions in the papers and not simply repeat them at the
23 hearing. If a tentative has issued, the parties should be prepared to
24 explain why the analysis is correct or incorrect. Also, the Court often
25 tests its reasoning by asking questions and expects counsel to respond
26 directly and candidly.
- 27 **f. Settlement.** Counsel *must* notify the Court at least two weeks before the
28 scheduled hearing if the parties are conducting settlement discussions

1 that may render the motion moot and *must* notify the Court immediately
 2 if a settlement is reached. A belated notice of settlement wastes scarce
 3 judicial resources, and the offending parties shall be subject to sanctions.
 4 In addition, the failure to provide timely notice may result in the release
 5 of the ruling that was prepared.

6 **9. EX PARTE APPLICATIONS.**

7 A party seeking ex parte relief, including a temporary restraining order, must
 8 comply with Local Rule 7-19. The applicant must notify the other party (or parties)
 9 that opposing papers are to be filed no later than 48 hours following service or by
 10 3:00 p.m. on the first court day after the service, whichever is later. The opposing
 11 party should advise the CRD as soon as possible whether it intends to oppose
 12 the ex parte application. The Court considers ex parte applications on the papers
 13 and usually does not set these matters for hearing. The application will not be
 14 considered until a Chambers Copy has been provided. Parties should not assume
 15 that an unopposed ex parte application will be granted, and a last-minute
 16 application or stipulation that is denied will not serve to relieve a party of an
 17 underlying obligation (e.g., a soon-to-expire deadline). Sanctions may be
 18 imposed for misuse of ex parte applications.

19 **10. CONTINUANCES.**

20 The Court grants continuances of pretrial and trial deadlines only on a timely
 21 showing of good cause. The Court applies the same standard of good cause to all
 22 extension requests—whether opposed or jointly requested.

- 23 **a. Good cause.** Good cause requires a specific, detailed, and non-
 24 conclusory showing of diligence from the outset of the case, describing:
 25 (1) all relevant work previously done (including when each item was
 26 completed), (2) all relevant work that remains to be done, (3) why the
 27 remaining work could not previously have been done (including efforts
 28 made to complete each remaining item), and (4) why the amount of time

1 requested is needed to complete the remaining work.

2 **b. Diligence.** The Case Management Order (CMO) that the parties will
3 receive following the Mandatory Scheduling Conference (MSC) contains
4 an attachment with information that must be submitted in table form in
5 showing diligence. Diligence generally will *not* be found when a party
6 opts for strategic staging of discovery (or other tasks) that prevent
7 completion within the existing deadline. Moreover, a desire to engage in
8 settlement discussions does not constitute good cause to extend existing
9 deadlines. The parties are strongly encouraged to agree to exchange initial
10 disclosures promptly and to actively commence discovery before
11 the MSC.

12 **c. Denied with Prejudice.** Denial of an extension request, including
13 summary denial, is *with prejudice*. The parties should therefore present
14 all available information showing that the outstanding discovery or other
15 litigation tasks cannot be completed within the existing deadlines despite
16 all reasonable diligence from the outset of the case. A party is *not*
17 permitted to resubmit a denied extension request with information that
18 was either previously submitted or previously available.

19 **d. Proposed Order.** The parties must complete and submit the CMO
20 Continuance Order template on the Court's website under "Orders &
21 Additional Documents" at the bottom of the webpage. Please follow the
22 highlighted directions at the end of the document. File the Proposed
23 Order and submit an electronic Word copy to Judge Blumenfeld's
24 Chambers email. Failure to use and properly submit the CMO
25 Continuance Order Template will result in the striking or summary denial
26 of the request.

27 ***Failure to comply with the procedural requirements*** above—including the use
28 and proper submission of the table in the MSC Attachment and the CMO

1 Continuance Order Template may result in the extension request being
2 stricken or summarily denied. *An improper resubmission of a denied*
3 *extension request* may result in sanctions.

4 **11. CLASS ACTIONS.**

5 If this action is a putative class action, the parties are to act diligently and
6 begin discovery immediately, so that the motion for class certification can be filed
7 expeditiously. A motion for class certification must be filed no later than 120 days
8 from the date initially set for the scheduling conference, without regard to any
9 continuances, unless the Court orders otherwise.

10 **12. ERISA CASES (BENEFIT CLAIMS).**

11 The Court will hear motions to determine the standard of review, whether
12 discovery will be permitted, and the scope of the administrative record. Counsel
13 are discouraged from filing motions for summary judgment or partial summary
14 judgment on any other issue. If they choose to do so, they must distinguish
15 *Kearney v. Standard Insurance Co.*, 175 F.3d 1084, 1093-95 (9th Cir. 1999)
16 (en banc) in the moving papers and explain why summary judgment
17 is not precluded.

18 The parties may receive a mandatory scheduling conference order as a matter
19 of course. Because the ordinary pretrial and trial schedule does not apply to these
20 ERISA cases, the parties need only submit a joint status report identifying any
21 issues that should be considered. The parties should proceed with the preparation
22 of the administrative record and briefing without delay upon service of the
23 complaint. A court trial, ordinarily limited to oral argument on the administrative
24 record, will be scheduled within six months from the filing of the original
25 complaint, unless good cause for additional time is shown in the status report. If
26 the Court concludes that the decision would not benefit from oral argument, the
27 matter may be submitted for decision on the papers.

28 ///

1 **13. BANKRUPTCY APPEALS.**

2 Counsel must comply with the Notice Regarding Appeal from Bankruptcy
3 Court issued at the time the appeal is filed in the district court. The matter is
4 deemed under submission on the filing of the appellant's reply brief. The
5 Court considers bankruptcy appeals on the papers and usually does not set
6 these matters for hearing.

7 **14. CONSENT TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE.**

8 The parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge preside over the entire
9 case, including trial. The parties are free to select from among all Magistrate
10 Judges available for this purpose, not just the Magistrate Judge assigned to this
11 case. Please consult the Central District website for the list of available
12 Magistrate Judges and submit the consent form.

13 **15. SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

14 If, without satisfactory explanation, counsel fail to file the required Joint Rule
15 26(f) Report or the required pretrial documents, fail to appear at any scheduled
16 proceeding, or otherwise fail to comply with judicial orders or rules, the Court shall
17 take any action it deems appropriate, including: (i) dismissal of the case for failure
18 to prosecute, if the failure occurs on the part of the plaintiff; (ii) striking
19 the answer resulting in default if such failure occurs on the part of the defendant;
20 and/or (iii) imposing monetary sanctions against the offending party and counsel.

21
22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23
24
25 Dated: June 23, 2022



26 Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr.
27 United States District Court Judge
28